

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

18. (new) A wind turbine gear unit comprising a low speed gear module and a plurality of high speed gear modules wherein said low speed gear module is operable simultaneously to transmit torque to each of said high speed gear modules and whereby the rotor is supported by at least one bearing which is integrated in the housing of the low speed gear module.

19. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said high speed gear modules is a multi-stage gear unit.

20. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein said low speed gear module is a multi-stage gear unit.

21. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein the low speed gear module comprises a housing adapted to transfer rotor forces and bending moments to a nacelle structure.

22. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 21, wherein the housing is integrated with the base plate of the nacelle of the wind turbine.

23. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 22, wherein the housing is used to transmit rotor loads to a tower supporting the nacelle of the wind turbine.

24. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 23, wherein the base plate of the nacelle incorporates a yaw bearing of the nacelle, allowing the nacelle to rotate on the tower.

25. (new) the wind turbine gear unit according to claim 24, wherein the housing is fixed to the wind turbine's structure via supports that form part of the housing and which are extended in a base plate that supports the gear unit and rotor, as well as the yaw bearing of the nacelle.

26. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said high speed gear modules comprises a support housing which is selectively releasable from the housing of the low speed gear unit.

27. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein each high speed gear module housing provides support for bearings which rotatably support one or more rotatable components of that gear module.

28. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein at least one high speed gear module has an electrical generator associated therewith.

29. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 28, wherein the or each said electrical generator receives input torque via only one high speed gear module.

30. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 28, wherein a said generator and associated high speed gear module form a sub-assembly which is selectively removable from the low speed gear module.

31. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 30, wherein said generator comprises a shaft rotatably coupled to the high speed gear module via a spline connection.

32. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein an intermediate stage gear module is provided between the low speed gear module and each high speed gear module.

33. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein a spline connection is provided between the low speed gear module and each high speed gear module.

34. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18 and which is of an integrated type in which a component of the low speed gear module acts as part of a main rotor bearing.

35. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein the low speed shaft is supported on one or more bearings which also act as rotor bearings.

36. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, wherein all modules are removable whilst the housing is left in place to fulfill its structural role to support the rotor.

37. (new) The wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

38. (new) A wind turbine assembly comprising a wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, comprising a plurality of electrical generators and control means for selecting the number of generators operable to generate electricity.

39. (new) A wind turbine assembly comprising a wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, a plurality of electrical generators, a wind powered rotor assembly coupled to a low speed input of the low speed gear module, and a nacelle support structure, wherein the low speed gear unit comprises a housing which transmits forces from the rotor assembly to the nacelle support structure.

40. (new) A wind turbine assembly comprising a wind turbine gear unit according to claim 18, a plurality of electrical generators, a wind powered rotor assembly coupled to a low speed input of the low speed gear module, and a nacelle support structure mounted on a supporting tower, wherein the low speed gear unit comprises a housing which transmits forces from the rotor assembly to the tower.

41. (new) A wind turbine assembly comprising a wind turbine gear unit comprising a low speed gear module and a plurality of high speed gear modules to drive a plurality of generators, wherein said low speed gear module is operable simultaneously to transmit torque to each of said high speed gear modules; a wind powered rotor assembly coupled to a low speed input of the low speed gear module; and a nacelle support structure with a base plate incorporating a yaw bearing for mounting the nacelle on a tower, wherein the low speed gear unit comprises a housing that is integrated with the base plate of the nacelle.